**Statement**

*Per capita consumption during 1983 (8th round of NST)*

(Rs. per month)

| Items | Rural | % | Urban | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Food | 73.73 | 65.57 | 96.97 | 59.12 |
| Clothing | 9.66 | 8.59 | 12.52 | 7.63 |
| Footwear | 1.11 | 0.99 | 1.80 | 1.10 |
| Fuel & Light | 7.92 | 7.04 | 11.36 | 6.93 |
| *Durable goods* | 2.55 | 2.27 | 3.69 | 2.25 |
| Total Expenditure | 112.45 | 100.00 | 164.03 | 100.00 |

**Demand for Raising the Price of Natural Rubber**

3400. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ruling left Democratic Front and a delegation of opposition United Democratic Front in Kerala have submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister for increase in the minimum price of natural rubber and restrict the import of number of items which are grown in the State and also urged the Prime Minister to modify the import-export policy to remove the provisions which are inconsistant with the national policy; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps have been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) There have been representations for raising the price of natural rubber as also in respect of the current import policy for certain agricultural items grown in Kerala. Import of natural rubber is canalised through STC. Its import is made to meet the demand-supply gap and it is always the endeavour of the Government to limit imports to the extent necessary to meet this gap. Government considers revision of the price band for natural rubber on the basis of the variation in the factors taken into account for the fixation of the price band.

There have been representations in regard to coconut oil, copra, coir, pepper and certain spices. Except for spices—Cloves, Cinnamon/Cassia, Nutmeg and Mace, there has been no change in the import policy for other items. Import of the said spices was de-canalised having regard to the rise in prices and problems in import and distribution consequent on canalisation.

**Unrest among Buddhist in Ladakh**

3401. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of widespread unrest among